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(54) **SYSTEMS, METHODS, AND COMPUTER PROGRAM PRODUCTS FOR HIGH DEPTH OF FIELD IMAGING**

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G06T 5/00 (2006.01)
G06T 5/50 (2006.01)

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CPC **H04N 5/2226** (2013.01); **G06T 5/003** (2013.01); **G06T 5/50** (2013.01); **G06T 2207/10016** (2013.01); **G06T 2207/20012** (2013.01); **G06T 2207/20221** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

None

See application file for complete search history.

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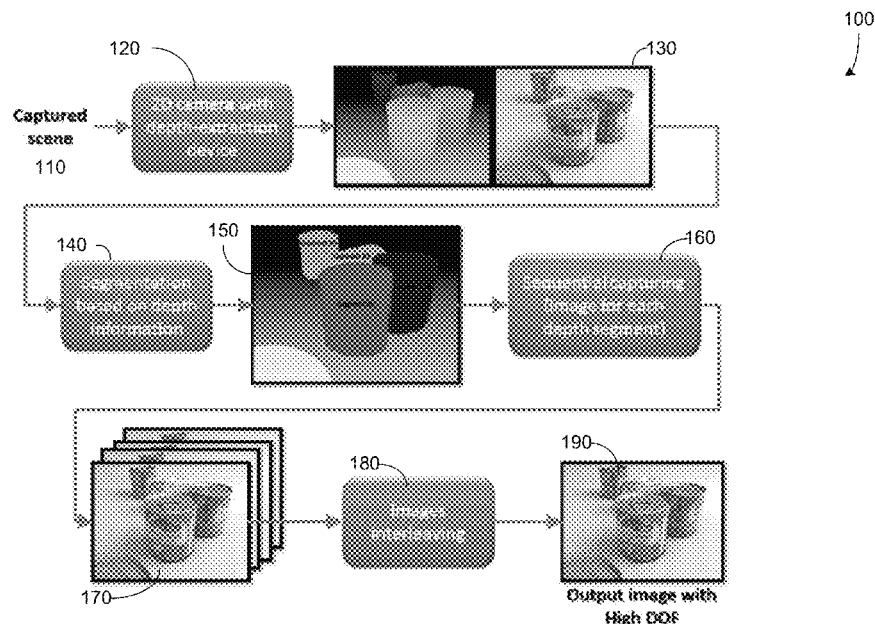
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Methods, systems, and computer program products allow for the capturing of a high depth of field (DOF) image. A comprehensive depth map of the scene may be automatically determined. The scene may then be segmented, where each segment of the same corresponds to a respective depth of the depth map. A sequence of images may then be recorded, where each image in the sequence is focused at a respective depth of the depth map. The images of this sequence may then be interleaved to create a single composite image that includes the respective in-focus segments from these images.

6 Claims, 9 Drawing Sheets



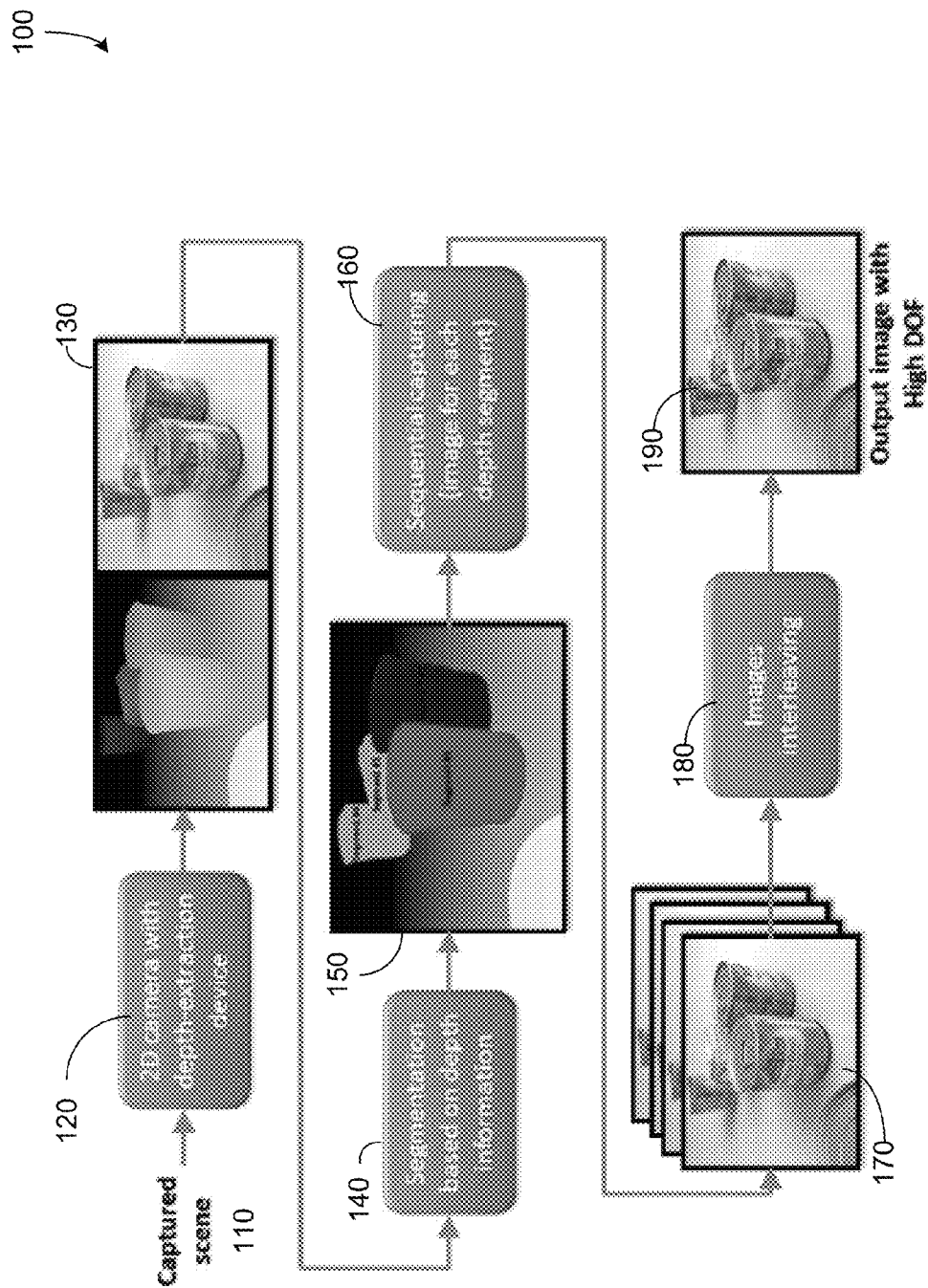


FIG. 1

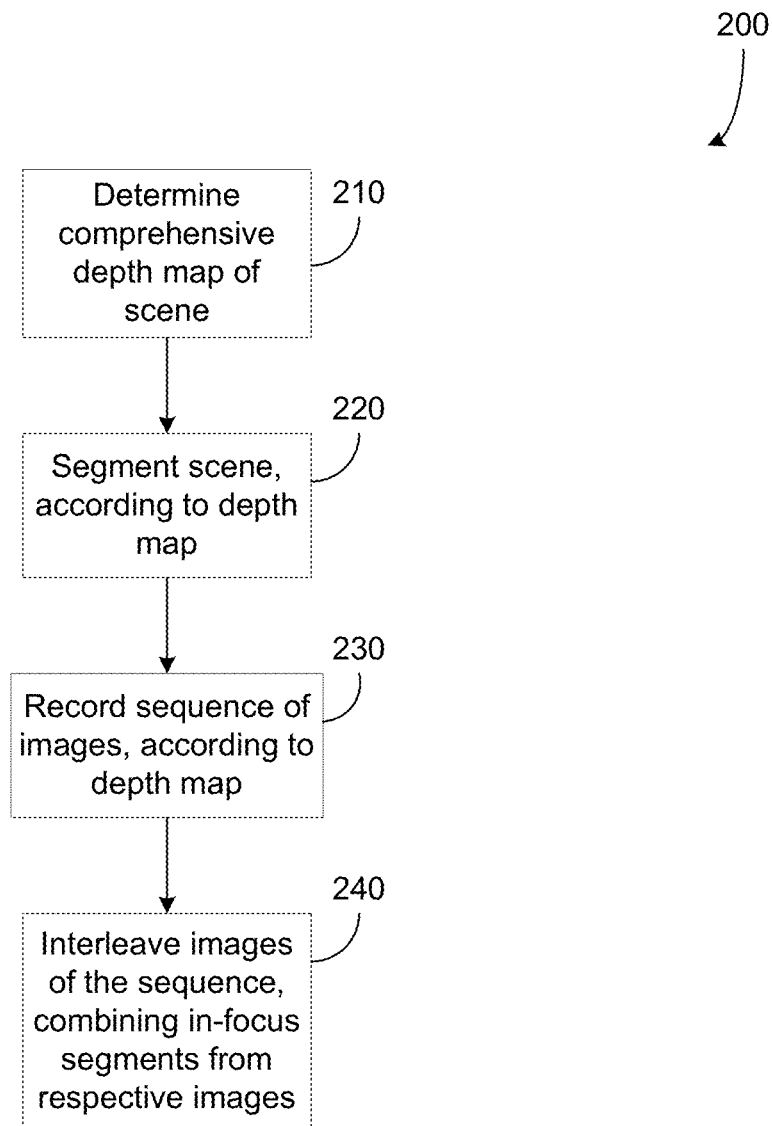
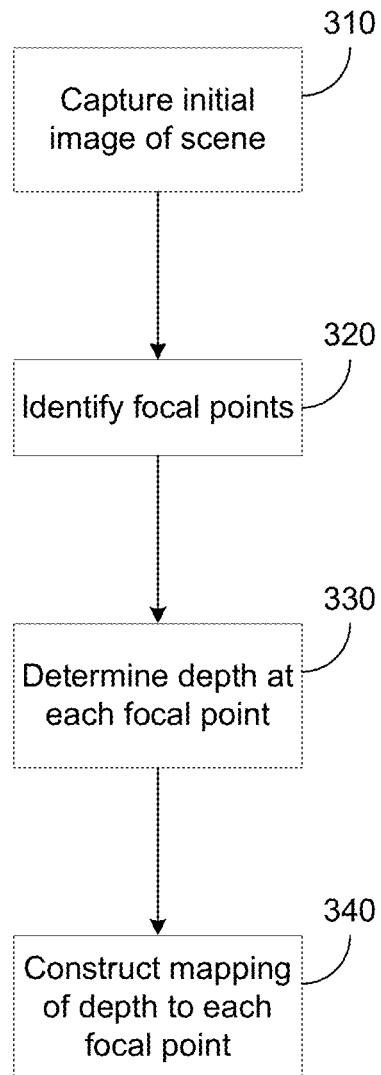


FIG. 2

210
↓

**FIG. 3**

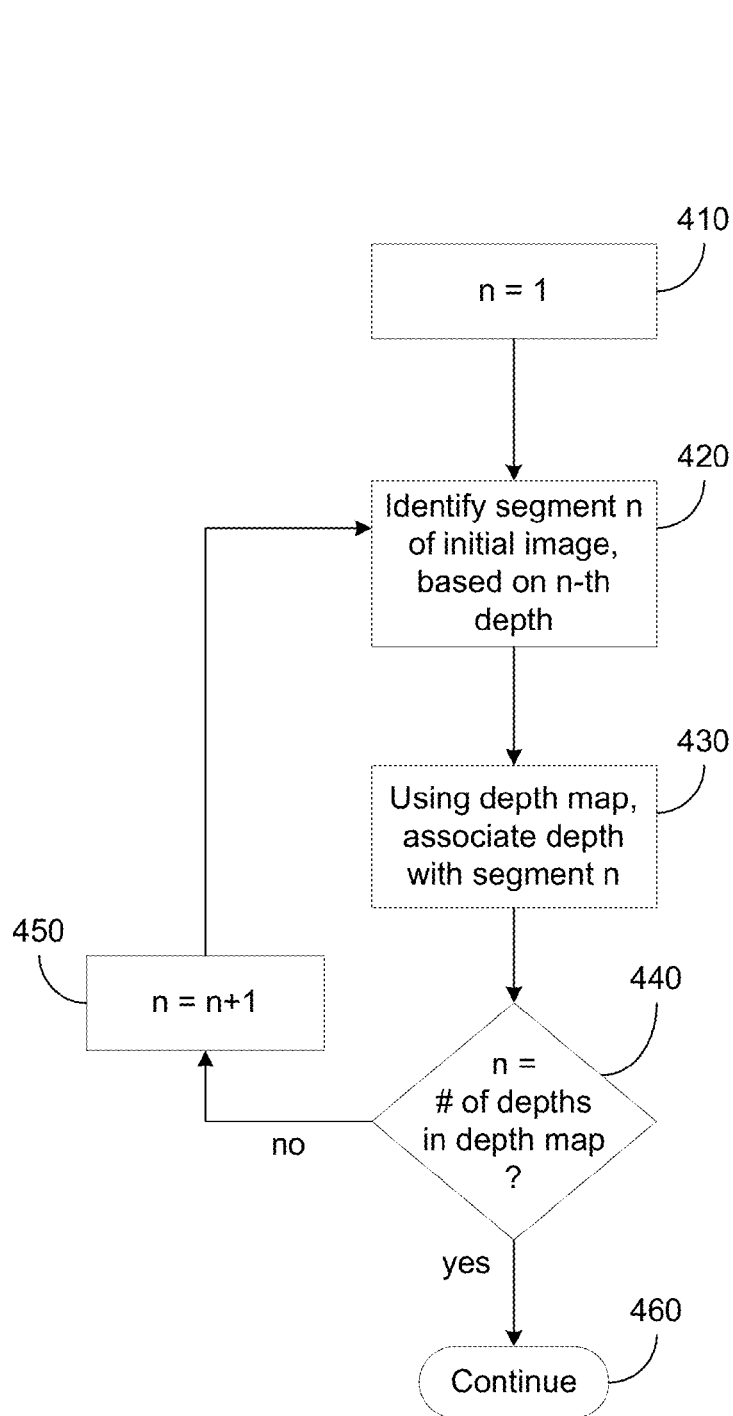


FIG. 4

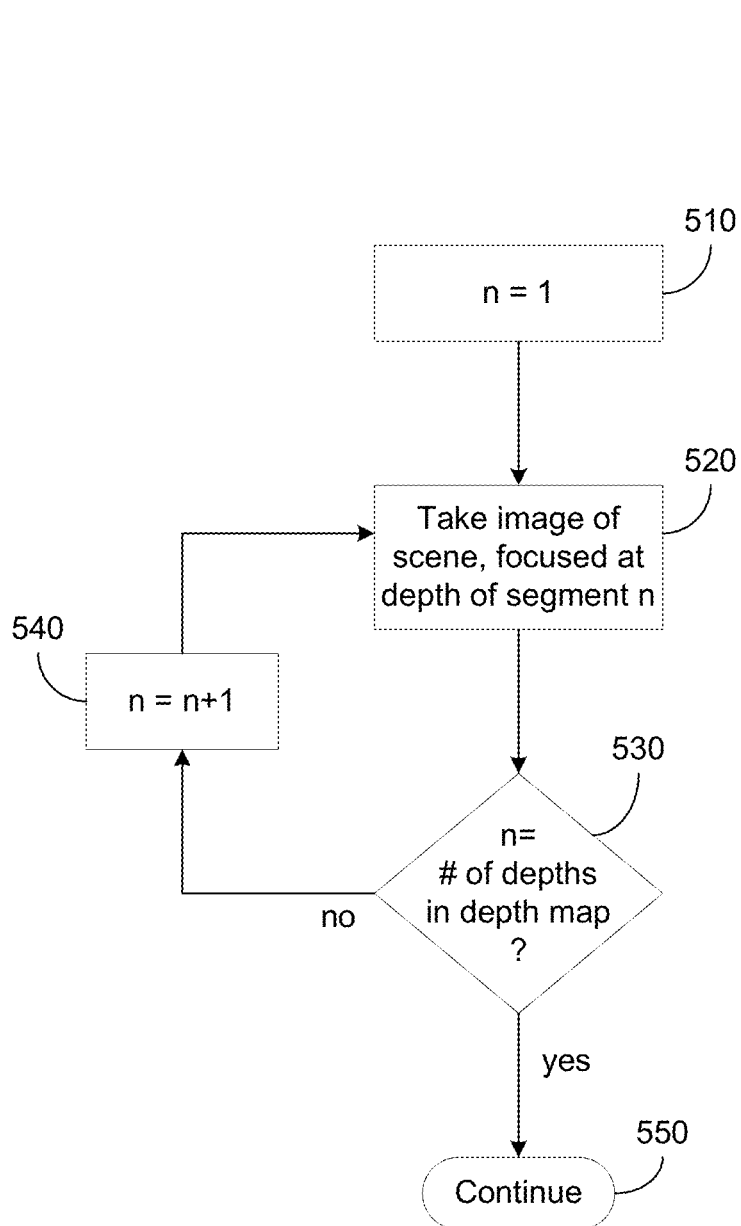


FIG. 5

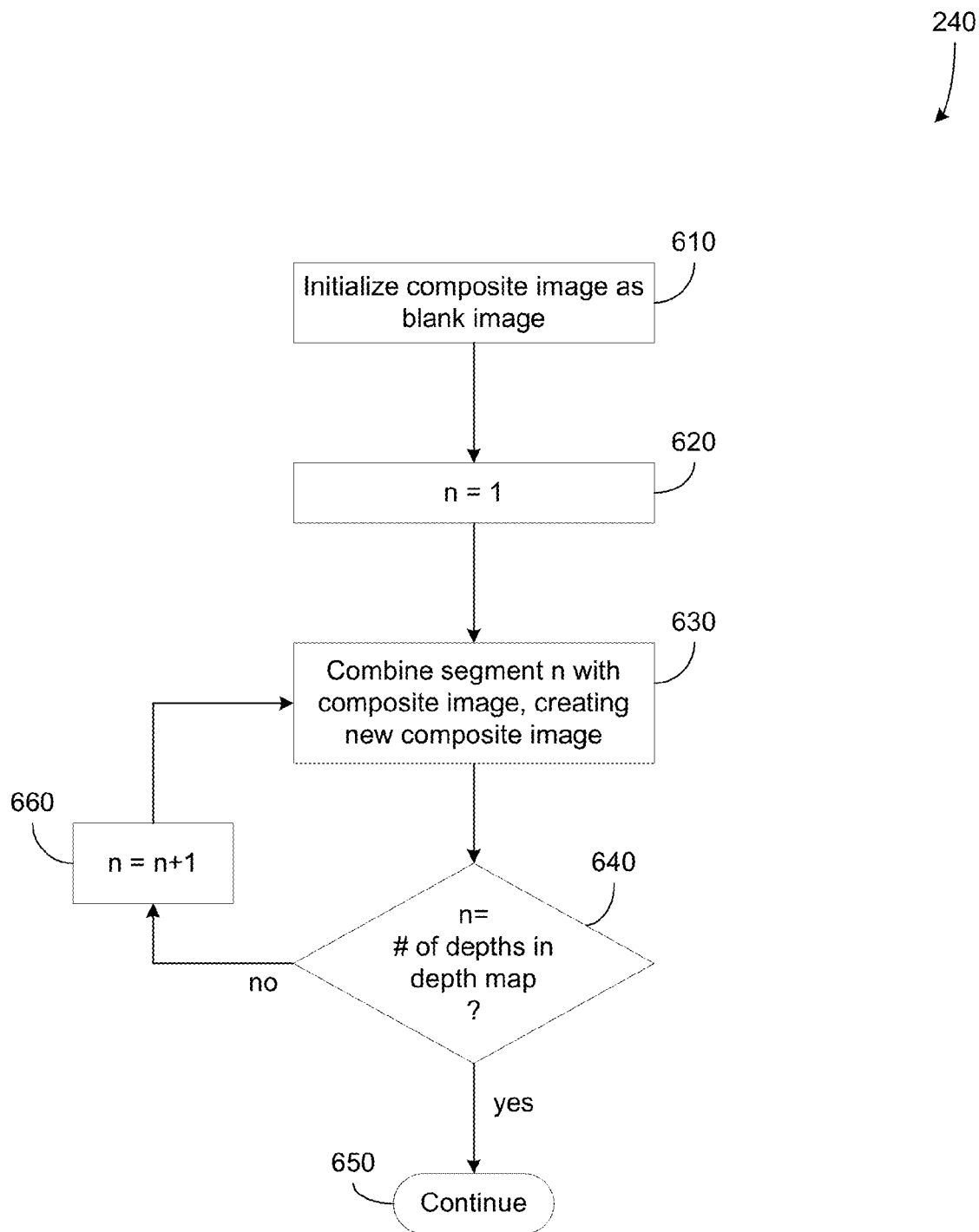


FIG. 6

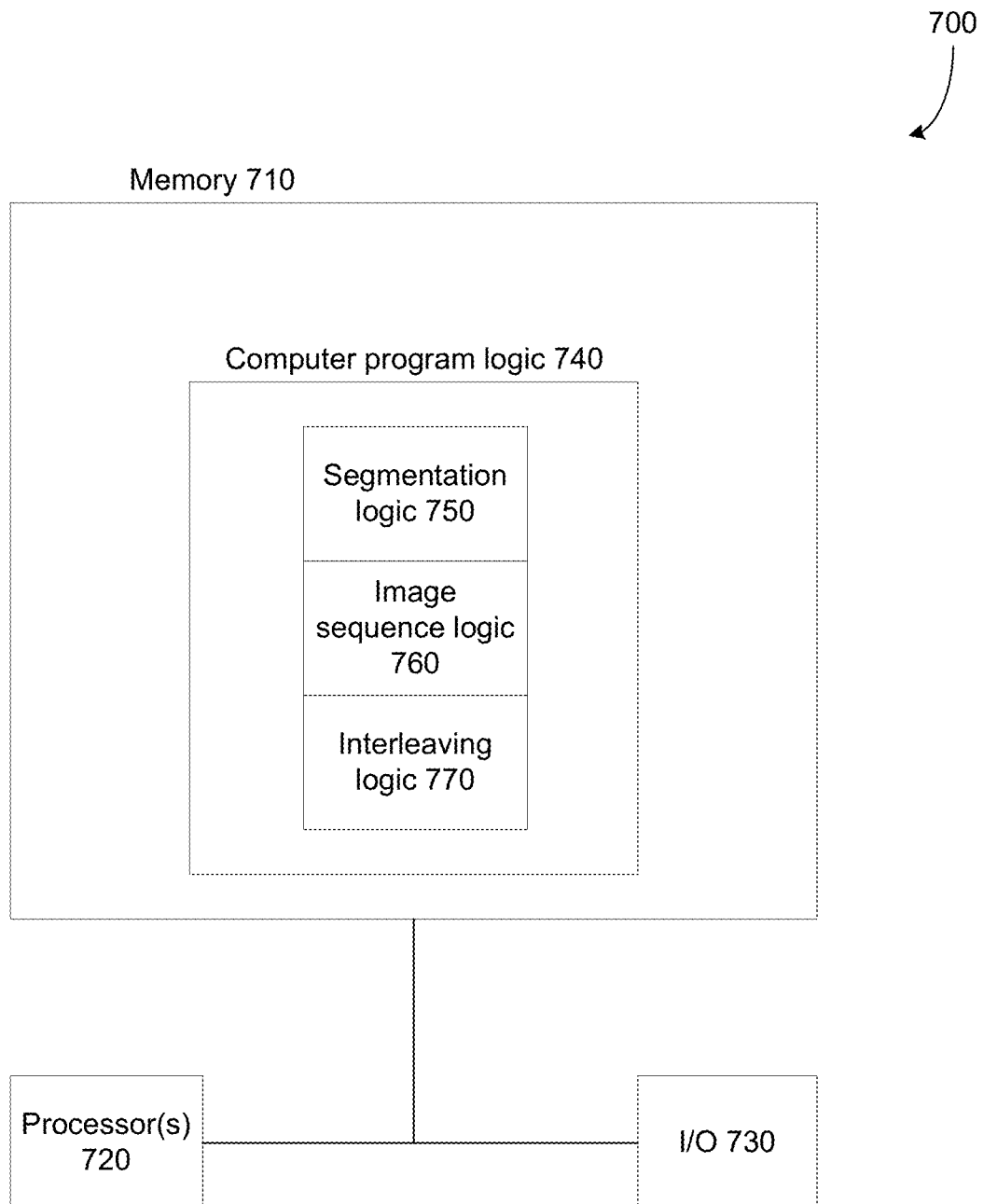


FIG. 7

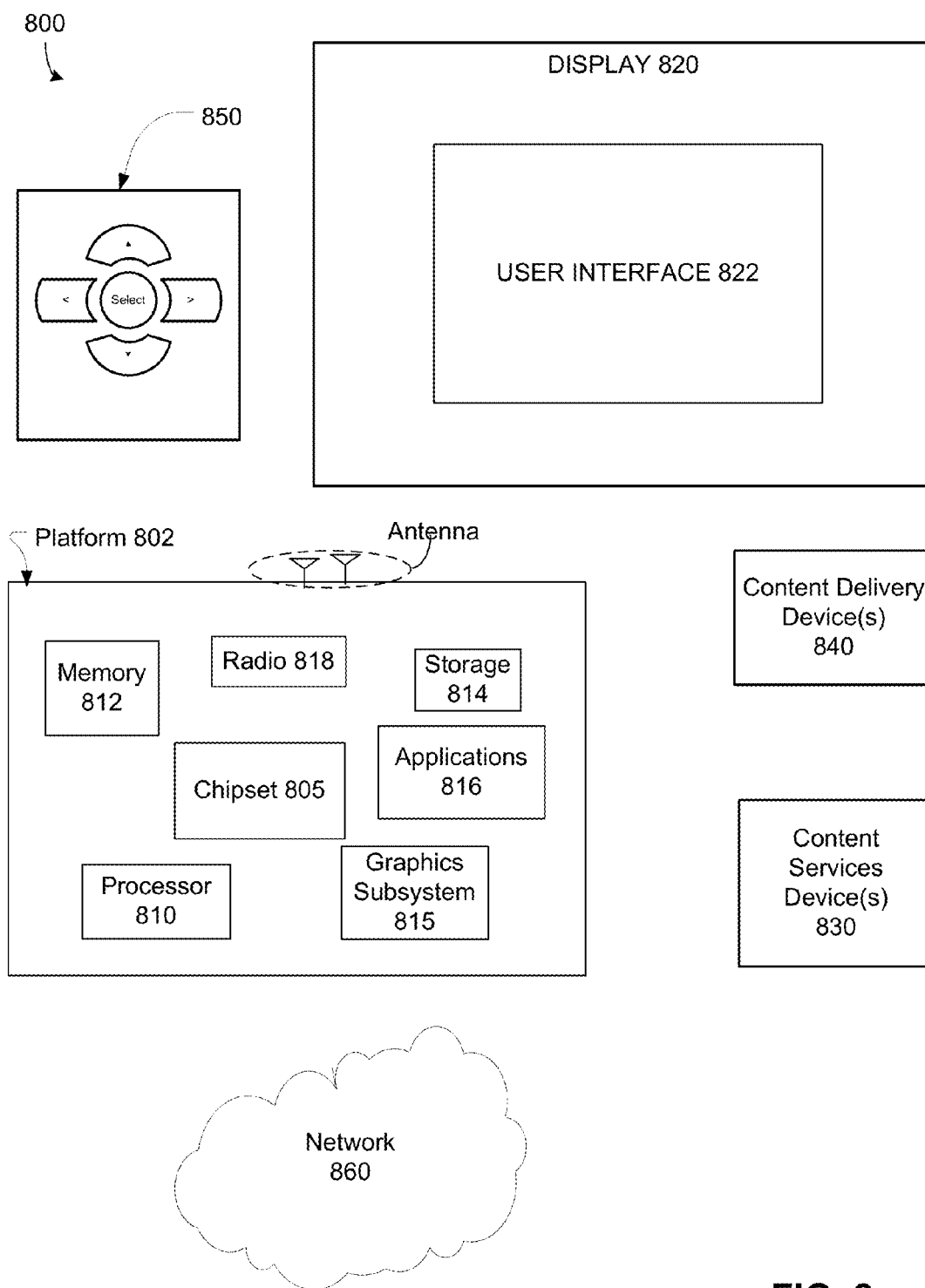


FIG. 8

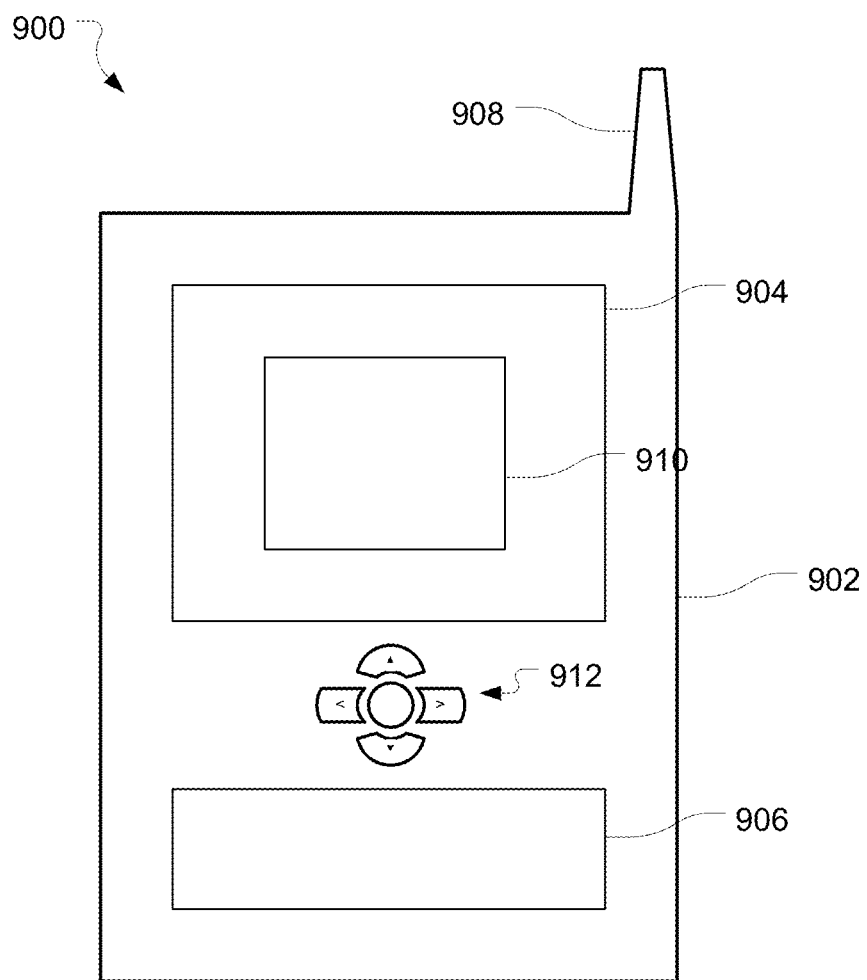


FIG. 9

SYSTEMS, METHODS, AND COMPUTER PROGRAM PRODUCTS FOR HIGH DEPTH OF FIELD IMAGING

BACKGROUND

The term “depth of field” (DOF) describes the distance between the nearest and farthest objects in a scene that appear acceptably sharp in an image. Control over the sharp and hazy parts of the image may be of considerable importance for the quality of a photograph. When a lens focuses on a subject at a specific distance, all subjects at that distance are sharply focused. Subjects that are not at the same distance are generally out of focus and not sharp. However, since the human eye cannot distinguish very small degrees of blurriness, some subjects that are in front of or behind the sharply focused subjects may still appear sharp. The zone of acceptable sharpness is referred to as the depth of field. Thus, increasing the depth of field increases the sharpness of an overall image.

Generally, the depth of field may depend on several factors, including the object distance, the focal distance, the f-number of the camera’s lens, and on the perceptivity of the observer. Thus, in order to set the DOF that corresponds to the main object in the captured scene, the photographer is typically required to take these parameters into account and set the focal distance accordingly. Modern cameras may remove the need for manual adoption of the camera settings by using any of several complicated automatic mechanisms and processes. As result, the selected main object will not suffer from blurriness in the output image. This outcome, however, results in the blurriness of objects that are located at different distances from this main object (either farther or closer with respect to the camera).

Currently, there are no systems that can generate an output image with high DOF to match the captured scene automatically. All available systems either require manual setting of the camera to one or more determined focal distances, or can adjust the DOF to a single object in the output image using post-processing methods.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS/FIGURES

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a system and process described herein, according to an embodiment.

FIG. 2 is a flow chart illustrating the processing described herein, according to an embodiment.

FIG. 3 is a flow chart illustrating the determination of a depth map, according to an embodiment.

FIG. 4 is a flow chart illustrating the segmentation of a scene, according to an embodiment.

FIG. 5 is a flow chart illustrating the recording of a sequence of images, according to an embodiment.

FIG. 6 is a flow chart illustrating an interleaving process, according to an embodiment.

FIG. 7 is a block diagram illustrating a computing context of a software or firmware embodiment of the processing described herein.

FIG. 8 is a block diagram illustrating an information system that may incorporate the system described herein, according to an embodiment.

FIG. 9 illustrates a device that may incorporate the system described herein, according to an embodiment.

In the drawings, the leftmost digit(s) of a reference number identifies the drawing in which the reference number first appears.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

An embodiment is now described with reference to the figures, where like reference numbers indicate identical or functionally similar elements. While specific configurations and arrangements are discussed, it should be understood that this is done for illustrative purposes only. A person skilled in the relevant art will recognize that other configurations and arrangements can be used without departing from the spirit and scope of the description. It will be apparent to a person skilled in the relevant art that this can also be employed in a variety of other systems and applications other than what is described herein.

The methods, systems, and computer program products described herein may allow for the capturing of a high DOF image. A comprehensive depth map of the scene may be automatically determined. The scene may then be segmented, where each segment of the scene corresponds to a respective depth of the depth map. A sequence of images may then be recorded, where each image in the sequence is focused at a respective depth taken from the depth map. The images of this sequence may then be interleaved to create a single high DOF image that includes the respective in-focus segments from these images.

The overall processing of the system described herein is illustrated in FIG. 1, according to an embodiment. A scene 110 may be captured by a two-dimensional (2D) camera 120. In the illustrated embodiment, the camera 120 may include a depth extraction device. Such a device may create a depth map (not shown), which stores a number of points in the scene 130 (e.g., using X and Y coordinates) and, for each such point, stores a depth, i.e., a distance measurement (a Z coordinate) representing the distance between the camera and the point.

The depth map may be used by a module 140 to perform segmentation of the scene. Here, the scene may be decomposed into a sequence of segments, each corresponding to a respective depth in the depth map. In a given segment, each point in the segment may therefore have the same distance measurement, or Z coordinate. In the example of FIG. 1, the depth map may contain four distinct depths, and the scene 130 may therefore be decomposed into four respective segments as shown at 150. At 160, a set of respective images may be captured for the scene, where each image has a focal distance corresponding to the depth of one of the segments. In this example, four images 170 may be taken, one for each segment, where the focal distance of each image corresponds to the depth of the respective segment.

At 180, the images 170 may be interleaved to create a final composite image 190 as an output. In an embodiment, the interleaving may use the in-focus segment from each of the images 170, combining the segments to form the final composite image 190.

Note that this process does not require any manual determination or choice of the particular focal distances; rather, these distances are automatically compiled in the depth map by the depth extraction device. The depth map may be viewed as comprehensive in the sense that a plurality of distances, or depths, are dynamically identified and recorded in the map using the depth extraction device, and are not limited by a user’s selection of particular depths, nor is the depth extraction device limited to predefined depths. In an embodiment, the recorded depths may then be used to capture corresponding segments of the scene. By interleaving these segments, a composite image results. This image may therefore have high DOF, because its various segments are all in focus.

This process is illustrated by the flowchart of FIG. 2, according to an embodiment. At 210, a comprehensive depth

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map may be created for a scene. At **220**, the scene may be segmented according to the depth map, so that each segment includes points having the same depth. In an embodiment, there may be a segment for each depth that was recorded in the depth map. At **230**, a sequence of images may be recorded according to the depth map. In this sequence, each image may be focused at a particular depth according to the map, so that each image may have one of the segments in focus. At **240**, these images may be interleaved, so that the in-focus segments may be combined to form a single high DOF image.

The determination of a comprehensive depth map (**210** of FIG. **2**) is illustrated in FIG. **3**, according to an embodiment. At **310**, an initial image of the scene may be captured. To do this, a 2D camera may be used. At **320**, a set of focal points in the scene may be identified. At **330**, the depth or focal distance may be determined for each focal point. In an embodiment, a depth extraction device may be used for this purpose. In an embodiment, the depth extraction device may be part of the 2D camera. Examples of such a camera include the Depth-Sense™ camera available from SoftKinetic™ of Brussels, Belgium and the 3D camera available from PMD Technologies™ of Siegen, Germany. At **340**, a depth map may be constructed, identifying a focal distance or depth with each identified focal point.

The segmentation of the scene is illustrated in greater detail in FIG. **4**, according to an embodiment. In this example, a segment of the scene may be identified for each depth recorded in the depth map, in serial. At **410**, an index *n* may be initialized to the value 1. At **420**, a segment *n* of the initial image may be identified, corresponding to the *n*-th depth listed in the depth map. Points in the segment *n* may be at the same approximate depth. At **430**, the corresponding depth may be associated with segment *n*. At **440**, the determination may be made as to whether *n* has reached the number of depths listed in the depth map. If not, then *n* may be incremented at **450** and the process may be repeated starting at **420** for the next value of *n*. As would be understood by a person of ordinary skill in the art, alternative processes may be used in segmentation, apart from what is shown in this figure. For example, the identification of segments and the association of each segment with a particular depth may instead proceed in parallel.

The recording of the sequence of images is illustrated in FIG. **5**, according to an embodiment. At **510**, an index *n* may be initialized to the value 1. At **520**, an image of the scene may be taken, where the focal distance or depth of the image is equal to the depth associated with segment *n*. This may result in an image in which segment *n* is in focus. At **530**, a determination may be made as to whether the value *n* has reached the number of depths listed in the depth map. If not, then at **540** the index *n* may be incremented by 1. The process may then continue at **520**, using the next value of *n*. Again, as would be understood by a person of ordinary skill in the art, alternative processes may be used in segmentation, apart from what is shown in this figure.

The interleaving process (**240** of FIG. **2**) is illustrated in greater detail in FIG. **6**, according to one embodiment. At **610**, the process may begin with a blank image representing an initial composite image. As will be described below, segments will be added serially to this initial composite. At **620**, an index *n* may be initialized to the value 1. At **630**, the *n*-th segment may be combined with the current composite image, creating a new composite image. At **640**, the determination may be made as to whether the index *n* has reached the total number of depths in the depth map. If not, then *n* may be incremented at **650**. The process may then continue at **630** with the next segment *n*. In this way, all the segments may be

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combined into a single composite image. As would be understood by a person of ordinary skill in the art, alternative processes may be used in segmentation, apart from what is shown in FIG. **6**.

One or more features disclosed herein may be implemented in hardware, software, firmware, and combinations thereof, including discrete and integrated circuit logic, application specific integrated circuit (ASIC) logic, and microcontrollers, and may be implemented as part of a domain-specific integrated circuit package, or a combination of integrated circuit packages. The term software, as used herein, refers to a computer program product including at least one computer readable medium having computer program logic stored therein to cause a computer system to perform one or more features and/or combinations of features disclosed herein. The computer readable medium may be transitory or non-transitory. An example of a transitory computer readable medium may be a digital signal transmitted over a radio frequency or over an electrical conductor, through a local or wide area network, or through a network such as the Internet. An example of a non-transitory computer readable medium may be a compact disk, a flash memory, or other data storage device.

In an embodiment, some or all of the processing described herein may be implemented as software or firmware. Such a software or firmware embodiment is illustrated in the context of a computing system **700** in FIG. **7**. System **700** may include one or more central processing unit(s) (CPU) **720** and a body of memory **710** that may include one or more non-transitory computer readable media that may store computer program logic **740**. Memory **710** may be implemented as a read-only memory (ROM) or random access memory (RAM) device, for example. CPU **720** and memory **710** may be in communication using any of several technologies known to one of ordinary skill in the art, such as a bus or a point-to-point interconnect. Computer program logic **740** contained in memory **710** may be read and executed by CPU **720**. In an embodiment, one or more I/O ports and/or I/O devices, shown collectively as I/O **730**, may also be connected to CPU **720** and memory **710**. In an embodiment, I/O **730** may include an input device for capturing a scene and an output device for the final high DOF image, for example.

In the embodiment of FIG. **7**, computer program logic **740** may include a module **750** responsible for segmenting a scene. In an embodiment, this segmentation process may take place as described above with respect to FIG. **4**. Computer program logic **740** may also include a module **760** responsible for controlling the recording of a sequence of images as described above with respect to FIG. **5**, for example. Computer program logic **740** may also include a module **770** responsible for interleaving the sequence of images. In an embodiment, this process may proceed according to the description of FIG. **6**.

The systems, methods, and computer program products described above may be a part of a larger information system. FIG. **8** illustrates such an embodiment, as a system **800**. In embodiments, system **800** may be a media system although system **800** is not limited to this context. For example, system **800** may be incorporated into a personal computer (PC), laptop computer, ultra-laptop computer, tablet, touch pad, portable computer, handheld computer, palmtop computer, personal digital assistant (PDA), cellular telephone, combination cellular telephone/PDA, television, smart device (e.g., smart phone, smart tablet or smart television), mobile internet device (MID), messaging device, data communication device, and so forth.

In embodiments, system **800** comprises a platform **802** coupled to a display **820**. Platform **802** may receive content from a content device such as content services device(s) **830** or content delivery device(s) **840** or other similar content sources. A navigation controller **850** comprising one or more navigation features may be used to interact with, for example, platform **802** and/or display **820**. Each of these components is described in more detail below.

In embodiments, platform **802** may comprise any combination of a chipset **805**, processor **810**, memory **812**, storage **814**, graphics subsystem **815**, applications **816** and/or radio **818**. Chipset **805** may provide intercommunication among processor **810**, memory **812**, storage **814**, graphics subsystem **815**, applications **816** and/or radio **818**. For example, chipset **805** may include a storage adapter (not depicted) capable of providing intercommunication with storage **814**.

Processor **810** may be implemented as Complex Instruction Set Computer (CISC) or Reduced Instruction Set Computer (RISC) processors, x86 instruction set compatible processors, multi-core, or any other microprocessor or central processing unit (CPU). In embodiments, processor **810** may comprise dual-core processor(s), dual-core mobile processor(s), and so forth.

Memory **812** may be implemented as a volatile memory device such as, but not limited to, a Random Access Memory (RAM), Dynamic Random Access Memory (DRAM), or Static RAM (SRAM).

Storage **814** may be implemented as a non-volatile storage device such as, but not limited to, a magnetic disk drive, optical disk drive, tape drive, an internal storage device, an attached storage device, flash memory, battery backed-up SDRAM (synchronous DRAM), and/or a network accessible storage device. In embodiments, storage **814** may comprise technology to increase the storage performance enhanced protection for valuable digital media when multiple hard drives are included, for example.

Graphics subsystem **815** may perform processing of images such as still or video for display. Graphics subsystem **815** may be a graphics processing unit (GPU) or a visual processing unit (VPU), for example. An analog or digital interface may be used to communicatively couple graphics subsystem **815** and display **820**. For example, the interface may be any of a High-Definition Multimedia Interface, DisplayPort, wireless HDMI, and/or wireless HD compliant techniques. Graphics subsystem **815** could be integrated into processor **810** or chipset **805**. Graphics subsystem **815** could be a stand-alone card communicatively coupled to chipset **805**.

The graphics and/or video processing techniques described herein may be implemented in various hardware architectures. For example, graphics and/or video functionality may be integrated within a chipset. Alternatively, a discrete graphics and/or video processor may be used. As still another embodiment, the graphics and/or video functions may be implemented by a general purpose processor, including a multi-core processor. In a further embodiment, the functions may be implemented in a consumer electronics device.

Radio **818** may include one or more radios capable of transmitting and receiving signals using various suitable wireless communications techniques. Such techniques may involve communications across one or more wireless networks. Exemplary wireless networks include (but are not limited to) wireless local area networks (WLANs), wireless personal area networks (WPANs), wireless metropolitan area network (WMANs), cellular networks, and satellite net-

works. In communicating across such networks, radio **818** may operate in accordance with one or more applicable standards in any version.

In embodiments, display **820** may comprise any television type monitor or display configured to display images such as graphics processed by the processing units discussed above. Display **820** may comprise, for example, a computer display screen, touch screen display, video monitor, television-like device, and/or a television. Display **820** may be digital and/or analog. In embodiments, display **820** may be a holographic display. Also, display **820** may be a transparent surface that may receive a visual projection. Such projections may convey various forms of information, images, and/or objects. For example, such projections may be a visual overlay for a mobile augmented reality (MAR) application. Under the control of one or more software applications **816**, platform **802** may display user interface **822** on display **820**.

In embodiments, content services device(s) **830** may be hosted by any national, international and/or independent service and thus accessible to platform **802** via the Internet, for example. Content services device(s) **830** may be coupled to platform **802** and/or to display **820**. Platform **802** and/or content services device(s) **830** may be coupled to a network **860** to communicate (e.g., send and/or receive) media information to and from network **860**. Content delivery device(s) **840** also may be coupled to platform **802** and/or to display **820**.

In embodiments, content services device(s) **830** may comprise a cable television box, personal computer, network, telephone, Internet enabled devices or appliance capable of delivering digital information and/or content, and any other similar device capable of unidirectionally or bidirectionally communicating content between content providers and platform **802** and/display **820**, via network **860** or directly. It will be appreciated that the content may be communicated unidirectionally and/or bidirectionally to and from any one of the components in system **800** and a content provider via network **860**. Examples of content may include any media information including, for example, video, music, medical and gaming information, and so forth.

Content services device(s) **830** receives content such as cable television programming including media information, digital information, and/or other content. Examples of content providers may include any cable or satellite television or radio or Internet content providers. The provided examples are not meant to limit embodiments of the invention.

In embodiments, platform **802** may receive control signals from navigation controller **850** having one or more navigation features. The navigation features of controller **850** may be used to interact with user interface **822**, for example. In embodiments, navigation controller **850** may be a pointing device that may be a computer hardware component (specifically human interface device) that allows a user to input spatial (e.g., continuous and multi-dimensional) data into a computer. Many systems such as graphical user interfaces (GUI), and televisions and monitors allow the user to control and provide data to the computer or television using physical gestures.

Movements of the navigation features of controller **850** may be echoed on a display (e.g., display **820**) by movements of a pointer, cursor, focus ring, or other visual indicators displayed on the display. For example, under the control of software applications **816**, the navigation features located on navigation controller **850** may be mapped to virtual navigation features displayed on user interface **822**, for example. In embodiments, controller **850** may not be a separate component but integrated into platform **802** and/or display **820**.

Embodiments, however, are not limited to the elements or in the context shown or described herein.

In embodiments, drivers (not shown) may comprise technology to enable users to instantly turn on and off platform **802** like a television with the touch of a button after initial boot-up, when enabled, for example. Program logic may allow platform **802** to stream content to media adaptors or other content services device(s) **830** or content delivery device(s) **840** when the platform is turned “off” In addition, chip set **805** may comprise hardware and/or software support for 5.1 surround sound audio and/or high definition 7.1 surround sound audio, for example. Drivers may include a graphics driver for integrated graphics platforms. In embodiments, the graphics driver may comprise a peripheral component interconnect (PCI) Express graphics card.

In various embodiments, any one or more of the components shown in system **800** may be integrated. For example, platform **802** and content services device(s) **830** may be integrated, or platform **802** and content delivery device(s) **840** may be integrated, or platform **802**, content services device(s) **830**, and content delivery device(s) **840** may be integrated, for example. In various embodiments, platform **802** and display **820** may be an integrated unit. Display **820** and content service device(s) **830** may be integrated, or display **820** and content delivery device(s) **840** may be integrated, for example. These examples are not meant to limit the invention.

In various embodiments, system **800** may be implemented as a wireless system, a wired system, or a combination of both. When implemented as a wireless system, system **800** may include components and interfaces suitable for communicating over a wireless shared media, such as one or more antennas, transmitters, receivers, transceivers, amplifiers, filters, control logic, and so forth. An example of wireless shared media may include portions of a wireless spectrum, such as the RF spectrum and so forth. When implemented as a wired system, system **800** may include components and interfaces suitable for communicating over wired communications media, such as input/output (I/O) adapters, physical connectors to connect the I/O adapter with a corresponding wired communications medium, a network interface card (NIC), disc controller, video controller, audio controller, and so forth. Examples of wired communications media may include a wire, cable, metal leads, printed circuit board (PCB), backplane, switch fabric, semiconductor material, twisted-pair wire, co-axial cable, fiber optics, and so forth.

Platform **802** may establish one or more logical or physical channels to communicate information. The information may include media information and control information. Media information may refer to any data representing content meant for a user. Examples of content may include, for example, data from a voice conversation, videoconference, streaming video, electronic mail (“email”) message, voice mail message, alphanumeric symbols, graphics, image, video, text and so forth. Data from a voice conversation may be, for example, speech information, silence periods, background noise, comfort noise, tones and so forth. Control information may refer to any data representing commands, instructions or control words meant for an automated system. For example, control information may be used to route media information through a system, or instruct a node to process the media information in a predetermined manner. The embodiments, however, are not limited to the elements or in the context shown or described in FIG. 8.

As described above, system **800** may be embodied in varying physical styles or form factors. FIG. 9 illustrates embodiments of a small form factor device **900** in which system **800** may be embodied. In embodiments, for example, device **900**

may be implemented as a mobile computing device having wireless capabilities. A mobile computing device may refer to any device having a processing system and a mobile power source or supply, such as one or more batteries, for example.

As described above, examples of a mobile computing device may include a personal computer (PC), laptop computer, ultra-laptop computer, tablet, touch pad, portable computer, handheld computer, palmtop computer, personal digital assistant (PDA), cellular telephone, combination cellular telephone/PDA, television, smart device (e.g., smart phone, smart tablet or smart television), mobile internet device (MID), messaging device, data communication device, and so forth.

Examples of a mobile computing device also may include computers that are arranged to be worn by a person. In embodiments, for example, a mobile computing device may be implemented as a smart phone capable of executing computer applications, as well as voice communications and/or data communications. Although some embodiments may be described with a mobile computing device implemented as a smart phone by way of example, it may be appreciated that other embodiments may be implemented using other wireless mobile computing devices as well. The embodiments are not limited in this context.

As shown in FIG. 9, device **900** may comprise a housing **902**, a display **904**, an input/output (I/O) device **906**, and an antenna **908**. Device **900** also may comprise navigation features **912**. Display **904** may comprise any suitable display unit for displaying information appropriate for a mobile computing device. Displayed information may include graphics processed by processing units, e.g., GPUs. I/O device **906** may comprise any suitable I/O device for entering information into a mobile computing device. Examples for I/O device **906** may include an alphanumeric keyboard, a numeric keypad, a touch pad, input keys, buttons, switches, rocker switches, microphones, speakers, voice recognition device and software, and so forth. Information also may be entered into device **900** by way of microphone. Such information may be digitized by a voice recognition device. The embodiments are not limited in this context.

The above discussion describes various embodiments, including a method that may comprise automatically determining a comprehensive depth map of a scene; segmenting the scene, wherein each segment of the scene corresponds to a respective depth in the depth map and each depth in the depth map has a corresponding segment; recording a sequence of images, wherein each image of the sequence is focused at a respective depth of the depth map; and interleaving the images in the sequence, to form a final composite image of the scene. The determination of the depth map may comprise

capturing an initial image of the scene; identifying a comprehensive plurality of focal points in the scene at a respective plurality of distinct depths; determining the depth at each focal point; and constructing a mapping of the depths to the respective focal points. The segmenting of the scene may comprise identifying a plurality of segments of the initial image, where the points in each segment have a distance approximately equal to the depth of a focal point in the segment, wherein a segment is identified for each depth of the depth map. Each segment may contain a single focal point identified in the determination of the depth map. The recording of the sequence of images may result in each image of the sequence having a respective segment in focus. The composite image may comprise in-focus segments from the respective images in the sequence.

The above discussion also describes embodiments that include a system comprising a processor; a first logic unit configured to segment the scene, wherein each segment of the scene corresponds to a respective depth in a comprehensive depth map created by a depth extraction device and each depth in the depth map has a corresponding segment; a second logic unit configured to record a sequence of images, wherein each image of the sequence is focused at a respective depth of the depth map; and a third logic unit configured to interleave the images in the sequence, to form a final composite image of the scene. The depth extraction device may be configured to capture an initial image of the scene; identify a comprehensive plurality of focal points in the scene at a respective plurality of distinct depths; determine the depth at each focal point; and construct a mapping of the depths to the respective focal points. The first logic unit may comprise a logic unit configured to identify a plurality of segments of the initial image, where the points in each segment have a distance approximately equal to the depth of a focal point in the segment, wherein a segment is identified for each depth of the depth map. Each segment may contain a single focal point identified in the determination of the depth map. The recording of the sequence of images may result in each image of the sequence having a respective segment in focus. The composite image may comprise in-focus segments from the respective images in the sequence.

The above discussion also describes embodiments that include a computer program product. Such a computer program product may include at least one non-transitory computer readable medium having computer program logic stored therein. The computer program logic may include logic to cause a processor to segment a scene, wherein each segment of the scene corresponds to a respective depth in a depth map that was automatically determined by a depth extraction device and each depth in the depth map has a corresponding segment; logic to cause the processor to record a sequence of images, wherein each image of the sequence is focused at a respective depth of the depth map; and logic to cause the processor to interleave the images in the sequence, to form a final composite image of the scene. The depth extraction device may be configured to capture an initial image of the scene; identify a comprehensive plurality of focal points in the scene at a respective plurality of distinct depths; determine the depth at each focal point; and construct a mapping of the depths to the respective focal points. The segmentation of the scene may comprise identifying a plurality of segments of the initial image, where the points in each segment have a distance approximately equal to the depth of a focal point in the segment, wherein a segment is identified for each depth of the depth map. Each segment may contain a single focal point identified in the determination of the depth map. The recording of the sequence of images may result in each image of the sequence having a respective segment in focus. The composite image may comprise in-focus segments from the respective images in the sequence.

The methods, systems, and computer program products described herein may allow for the capturing of a high DOF image. Such an image includes a plurality of in-focus segments from a respective plurality of images, each of which were focused at a depth determined by a comprehensive depth map.

Methods and systems are disclosed herein with the aid of functional building blocks illustrating the functions, features, and relationships thereof. At least some of the boundaries of these functional building blocks have been arbitrarily defined herein for the convenience of the description. Alternate

boundaries may be defined so long as the specified functions and relationships thereof are appropriately performed.

While various embodiments are disclosed herein, it should be understood that they have been presented by way of example only, and not limitation. It will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art that various changes in form and detail may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the methods and systems disclosed herein. Thus, the breadth and scope of the claims should not be limited by any of the exemplary embodiments disclosed herein.

What is claimed is:

1. A method, comprising:

apportioning points of a first image of a scene amongst a number of groups, wherein the number of groups is based on a number of distinct depth values in a depth map of the first image, and wherein the apportioning includes associating each group with a respective one of the distinct depth values of the depth map and associating each point of the first image with one of the groups based on a depth value of the respective point and the distinct depth values associated with the respective groups;

determining a focal distance for each group based on the distinct depth value associated with the respective group of points;

controlling an image capture device to capture an additional image of the scene for each group including, for each additional image, focusing the image capture device at the focal distance determined for a respective one of the groups to capture a respective group of points of the additional image in-focus; and

combining the groups of points of the respective additional images to provide a composite image of the scene for which an object of the scene nearest to the image capture device and an object of the scene further from the image capture device are in-focus.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein points of each group have approximately equal depth values.

3. A system, comprising a processor and memory configured to:

apportion points of a first image of a scene amongst a number of groups, wherein the number of groups is based on a number of distinct depth values in a depth map of the first image, including to associate each group with a respective one of the distinct depth values of the depth map and to associate each point of the first image with one of the groups based on a depth value of the respective point and the distinct depth values associated with the respective groups;

determine a focal distance for each group based on the distinct depth value associated with the respective group of points;

control an image capture device to capture an additional image of the scene for each group including, for each additional image, to focus the image capture device at the focal distance determined for a respective one of the groups to capture a respective groups of points of the additional image in-focus; and

combine the groups of points of the respective additional images to provide a composite image of the scene for which an object of the scene nearest to the image capture device and an object of the scene further from the image capture device are in-focus.

4. The system of claim 3, wherein points of each group have approximately equal depth values.

5. A non-transitory computer readable medium encoded with a computer program including instructions to cause a processor to:

apportion points of a first image of a scene amongst a number of groups, wherein the number of groups is based on a number of distinct depth values in a depth map of the first image, including to associate each group with a respective one of the distinct depth values of the depth map and to associate each point of the first image with one of the groups based on a depth value of the respective point and the distinct depth values associated with the respective groups;

determine a focal distance for each group based on the distinct depth value associated with the respective group of points;

control an image capture device to capture an additional image of the scene for each group including, for each additional image, to focus the image capture device at the focal distance determined for a respective one of the groups to capture a respective groups of points of the additional image in-focus; and

combine the groups of points of the scene of the respective additional images to provide a composite image of the scene for which an object of the scene nearest to the image capture device and an object of the scene further from the image capture device are in-focus.

6. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim 5, wherein points of each group have approximately equal depth values.

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